

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 1. 1706.

I have a long Time waited to see how obsequiously obedient to Her Majesty's Order, about the depending Treaty of Union, those Gentlemen would be, who have less liking to the general Proposal, than they dare to discover ; and I'd give them their due Praise, they have not yet in Print appear'd against it ; whether in Obedience to Her Majesty's Command, or for Want of material Objections, I shall not determine : I ought indeed in Charity to hope it is their Submission — — — Her Majesty having thought fit to publish the following Order against libelling on this Head.

Her Majesty having been inform'd, That great Liberty has been taken by some Papists, and some disaffected Persons, in their Discourses and laying Wagers relating to the U-

nion of the two Kingdoms of England and Scotland, tending thereby to create misunderstandings between Her Majesty's Subjects ; Her Majesty being graciously inclin'd to prevent Her good Subjects from being misled by Inadverency, is this Day pleased, with Advice of Her Privy Council, to order, That publick Notice be given, That whatsoever shall be concerned in any seditions Discourse or Libel, or laying Wagers, or making or Subscribing Policies of Assurance relating to the said Union, shall be prosecuted for such their Offence, according to the utmost Rigour of the Law : Whereof all Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates are to take Notice. And that this Her Majesty's Pleasure may be publicly known, it is order'd to be printed in the Gazette.

Not

Nor should I have offer'd any thing on this Head my self, having long since relolv'd against it — And indeed hop'd there should be no occasion — But that I find strange Machins at Work in the World ; some directly pretending, others obliquely contriving the Rupture of a Treaty, so particularly mortifying to the Nation's Enemies, and promising so many Blessings to both Kingdoms ; such Glory to the present Reign, such flourishing Additions of Trade and Wealth to our Posterity, and against which so few have openly ventur'd to object, and with so little Ground, that even those that inwardly repine at the Prospect, cannot form one Argument against the Foundation.

There has indeed to me appear'd nothing so wonderful, as that a Treaty of such Consequence to both Kingdoms, so often desir'd, and so few Objectors or Objections to oppose, shou'd not long since have been brought to a Head ; all that I can say of that, is, that it seems to be reserv'd for the peculiar Glory of Her Maj:ty, to fix Union between the Kingdoms, as the great and only way to preserve the Peace of both.

It therefore has appear'd very strange to me to find a *certain grave, great and learned Man*, of too much Consequence in his Person, Character, and Employment to be thought meanly of, be the first Man, who, under the Outside of an Exhortation to the Country to close with, and rejoice at the Prospect of a Union with Scotland, should turn all his seeming Panegyrick into a Sa:yr upon the Union it self, obliquely bantering the whole Scots Nation, pointing out the seeming Disadvantages of this Treaty, and jesting with the serious Attempts of the Government to bring it to pass.

Certainly this worthy Person, whose Capacity I pay a just Deference to, however I think his Attempt deserves Remark, must greatly injure the Opinion the World has entertain'd of his Judgment, or else of his Integrity, when he gives himself leave to launch out on the Head of Inconveniences in a Treaty, which it would be very hard for him to say, have any Foundation but in the Chymrical Flegmatick Notions of such Men, as from other Principles,

than I hope his Lordship entertains, have real Prejudice to the Union as such.

" 'Tis true, says our noble Orator, some object, the Scots will encroach upon our Trade, they will run away with our Trade, they will creep into our Trade, and our Poor will be run down, and our Employment less'rd; and this they bring against the Union ; and I confess, there is a great deal to be said to that, and perhaps we may feel some Inconveniences that way, and the Scots will work cheaper and live harder, and out-work our Poor, and I cannot deny but we shall suffer on this Account. But —

" Then his Lordship goes on, and tells us; others object, the Scots will endanger our Church, and encroach upon Religion, and the Church will be in Danger, and the like ; and this they bring against the Union ; I confess says his Honour, there may be something in this too. The Scots are Presbyterians, and known Enemies to the Church, and perhaps they may be ready to take all Occasions to introduce Presbytery, and put the Nation to some Uneasiness on that Account. But —

" But then, Gentlemen, here is a Consideration to be set against all this, abundantly satisfying, and to make you full Amends ; here is Security, Security, Gentlemen, and that is of the highest Importance, Security against your Enemies — And the like.

If this Speech was made in such a Tone, Style, and Manner to any Assembly of the Country Gentlemen and Freeholders, what can be said to it ? If this be not to banter and expose the Union in general, I cannot judge what the Design of it can be. No body can be so ignorant as not to see it a mere Jest and Sarcasm ; no body can pretend to think, it was not to scoff at the thing it self ; and I perswade my self, the Person that spoke it, expected it should be so taken.

As to the other Constructions, they must be more scandalous, and too coarse for me to hint upon a Person of so high a Station ; for really, the Matter is not true in Fact — There is nothing at all in it ; there is no Room to say, the Scots will encroach upon our

our Manufactures, creep into our Trade, out-work our Poor, run down Employment, sink Wages, and the like; 'tis a vulgar Error, so gross, that it really ceases to be a Mistake, but discovers it self to be a malicious Charge; and I doubt not to prove in the Consequence of these Papers, that the Scots are not in a Condition, as to the Nature of their Country, the Genius of their People, and the Circumstances of Trade, to encroach at all upon your Manufactures — They have Manufactures enough of their own to encourage Trade sufficient, the Indies at their Door, and are as many ways capable to improve both their Country at home, and their Commerce abroad, as any Nation under the Sun.

To talk of their under-working our People in Manufactures, is not only unlikely as before, and contrary to the Nature of their Trade, of which I shall speak by it self, but 'tis absurd; for that would not be an Improvement; to set the Scots at work at the miserable low Wages, we suppose they now work at, would be far from an Improvement to them. The thing is to raise the Wages of their Poor, to bring Scotland to a Pitch of Wealth, as to raise the Price of Labour; this would be to improve them; the Poor in Scotland do not

want Labour *as such*; but they want to have a Price for their Labour, and that is the Case before us in the Union; not to bring our People down to the Rates of theirs, but to bring theirs up to the Rate of ours; not to sink our Wages, but to raise theirs; that they may work and be paid for it; make Goods and dispose of them, live and trade as others do, not others as they do.

If the Scots were let into all the Manufactures in the World, if they could obtain no more Wages than they can now, they would not be one jot the better for the Alteration. The Complaint now is, their Poor cannot live by their Labour, adding to their Labour without adding to the Price, to me seems no Improvement at all; nor can I see anything therefore in this Part of his Gravity's Speech, but a Scoff upon the Union.

As I may perhaps examine this Head farther, I shall undertake to prove, that the Scots Union shall not only not injure, but much encrease your Manufacture in England; and the Parts of Trade, that the Scots shall pursue, shall be not only remote from your Manufactures, but assisting to them. But of this at large hereafter; a little more Poetry and I have done.

PEACE and UNION.

WAS ever Nation mock'd with Peace like this?
Peace both our Happiness, and our Disease!

All Men the mighty Benefit pretend,
But those that bless the Means, buffeton the End.
Unhappy Englishmen! at last be wise,
No more your proper Happiness despise;
No more be led by Knaves in Fools Disguise:
Summon your Reason in to be your Guide,
And let your Sense the mighty Cause decide.

Can snarling Discord bring forth sacred Peace?
And Miseries be tack'd to Happiness?
Blaspheme no more the Light of common Sense,
Nor let your Actions clash with Providence;

For

For Consequence will always Cause obey,
And guide the World, as Light directs the Eye.

Confusions never fail to plague a Land,
Where wild Precipitations go before ;
Nature and Providence go hand in hand,
And this permits, what That does first procure.

Blest Article of Human Good,
How wilt thou have thy Name be understood ?
Unmask the noisie Clamours of the Age,
And shew thy Dazzling Face upon our Stage.
How would our Hypocrites avoid thy Face !
Purple and Scarlets quit the Place !
How void would be the Pulpit, Bench, and Bar,
Where all thy Mimicks now appear !
How would they blush, when thy blest Face they see,
Withdraw their awkward Pageantry ;
Pay their just Debt to Guilt in Shame,
And give due Homage to thy R. v'rend Name !
In every Province of this Land,
Heaven stop in Mercy his revenging Hand !

What Monsters *THY COMMISSION* bear !
In thy Defence and Name, what R-kes appear !
That act the Mountebank of State,
And mock the Name of Magistrate !
Cover the Bench with Frauds and Vice,
With boasted Bribes, and Partialities,
See the Illiterate Wretch enrob'd with Power,
The poor Man's Property devour ;
Debauch'd with Pride, and wise by Chance,
He boasts of Gravity and Ignorance.
Eternal Violence adorns his Gate,
The Motto of the Barren Magistrate ;
Yet when by Law he studies to oppres,
He's call'd a Justice of the Peace.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

Speedily will be Publish'd,
THE Art of Curing Venereal Diseases
explain'd, by Natural and Mechanical
Principles. By *Nicholas de Blegni*, Chi-
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done into English from the Original
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BY Sea or Land, the Venereal Disease
is cured with Safety, Speed, Privacy, Cer-
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